GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3236
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
HUMAN GENOME STUDY
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented/approved any project to reap the benefit of Human Genome study conducted at the international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds allocated for this purpose, project-wise; and

(d) the stand of the Government on the establishment of bio-information centres?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.RAJA)

(a) & (b): Human Genome project is an international effort. The Department of Bio-Technology and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) have initiated major programmes in the area of human genetics and genome analysis for the last ten years for identifying, mapping and characterizing genes associated with genetic dis-orders prevalent in India. The Department of Bio-Technology has also implemented several projects in the area of functional genomics and human genome diversity and has set up 16 genetic diagnosis cum counseling units, benefiting 18,000 families. The ICMR has launched a major programme on Genomic and Molecular Medicine in February, 2001 to get benefit out of recent announcement of the genomic map for health care.

(c): The ICMR has approved 114 projects in the area of Genomics and MolecularMedicine. Implementation of projects depend upon the availability of funds during the 10th Plan.

(d): The ICMR has initiated the process for establishment of six bio-informatic centres in six premier medical institutes located in different parts of the country with ICMR Headquarters acting as coordinating unit. The Department of Bio-Tehnology has established sixty-one Bio-Informatic centres spread all over the country in various research institutions to serve as knowledge pathways.